

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP



A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Published by Ralph F. Cummings, Box 75, Fisherville, Mass., U. S. A.

Price \$1.00 per year or ten cents a copy.

Ad. rates—1c per word, 25c per inch (about 30 words), Quarter page \$1.00,

Half page \$1.75, Full page \$3.00. Display adverts., 50c per inch.

Four consecutive insertions for the price of three.

Vol. 9

FEBRUARY, 1941

No. 102

LIKES AND DISLIKES, THEN AND NOW

by W. M. Burns

Looking back over a period of nearly 40 years of dime novel reading I, as doubtless most of you do also, notice that many of our boyhood favorites, are not so well liked now as they were by us years ago. While many that we did not care for then, are our favorites now.

The first novel I ever read was the Wide Awake Library edition of "Frank Reade Jr., and his Airship in Asia." This followed shortly afterward by another Frank Reade story, the title of which I cannot for the life of me remember at this late date. All that I can remember about it was that it contained a lot of striking illustrations. Very probably another Wide Awake.

The reading of these two novels made a very deep and lasting impression on my youthful mind. I formed a deep liking for Frank and the irrepressible Barney and Pomp. A liking that has lasted all these years. I still like them as well as I ever did.

The next novel I read was a Tip Top Weekly. One of the early ones about Frank Merriwell's trip around the world. After Frank Reade, this tale seemed mighty tame reading. I was not greatly impressed by it. In after years I read many Tip Tops but they never were a favorite of mine. The same goes for today, still now I can see much in them that I could not see as a youth.

Early in my youth my father died and left me a big stock of black and

whites. Between 600 and 800 if I remember correctly.

These novels consisted of practically every kind of black and whites that had ever been published. Many of them that today are considered the rarest of the rare.

Today I often smile at the eagerness in which I went at that pile, searching after Frank Reades. I found them, plenty of them in both Wide Awakes and Frank Reade Library. Also met for the first time Jack Wright in Boys Star Library.

But odd as it may seem considering the similarity, I never liked Jack Wright quite as well as Frank Reade. Not quite, but almost.

After reading all the "Reades" and "Wrights" in the lot I then began to go through the lot for other interesting stories. Many of the Wide Awakes interested me, especially the Indian stories. I then began to look for other Indian stories and found them galore in various libraries. From those days onward, Indian stories have been my favorite type of novel. And even today prefer a good one over my old favorite Frank Reade.

In this lot were lots of Beadles Dime and Half Dime Librarys and New Detective Library. I at first passed these over disdainfully unless they contained an Indian story. And even then the Dime Library seemed tedious, even an Indian story.

Today Beadles Dime Library is my favorite library over all others with the Half Dime Library a close second. New York Detective Library is also now a high favorite of mine. The three

librarys that I cared very little for as a youth.

Eventually I had read all of this big lot of black and white except two kinds. These two were Old Sleuth Library and Old Cap Collier Library.

If I remember correctly I never did read all I had of these two kinds. Simply detested the Old Sleuths and only now and then when there was nothing else to read would I read one of the Old Caps.

At this late day I have never gotten my aversion to Old Sleuth Library. I consider them one of the poorest, if not the poorest dime novel library ever published. (Only my personal opinion, of course).

Now I can read Old Caps and do read such as come my way, and now and then find one that is really very interesting. Still there are many other kinds of black and whites that I like much better in preference to them.

All this time I had lived in a small country town where dime novels were not sold. Shortly after my people moved to a larger town that boasted of a couple of newsstands. Colored covers were then fast reaching the peak of their popularity. With me nickels were scarce, but usually I managed to buy a couple each week. What a task it was for me to decide the kinds to buy, as there was always a half dozen or more kinds that I would like to have. Usually I would buy Wild West Weekly and Liberty Boys of '76". After reading I would trade them to some other boy for perhaps a Secret Service and a Buffalo Bill Stories. And these in turn would be traded for a couple of other kinds.

So after a while became pretty much familiar with all the colored covers then being published.

Wild West and Liberty Boys were my favorites in those days over all other colored covers. Today I seldom read one, and never have contemplated collecting them. Buffalo Bill Stories was quite a favorite with me also in these days. The liking for this library has grown through the years and today I like it even better than in boyhood days.

Another favorite was James Boys Weekly. I still like to read them, but am not as fond of them as in days gone by.

Diamond Dick Jr., was a kind that

did, not much appeal to me as a boy. Today they are one of my favorite colored covers.

Pluck and Luck and Brave and Bold are old favorites that still retain their popularity with me.

Secret Service is another that I like much better than I did as a lad, although even then I liked them. Old King Brady was probably the best loved dime novel detective in American boyhood. But many others would probably vote for Nick Carter. Personally I am in favor of O. K. B.

As a lad, booklet novels were not very common. They had practically "gone the way of the buffalo" even in those days of nearly 40 years ago.

Such few as came my way did not appeal to me much and I guess it was the same with most boys of 40 years ago. The lurid colored covers had an attraction all their own. The earlier novels had little chance in competition with them.

I have seen Wide Awake Library, Beadles Dime and Half Dime Librarys laying on counters priced at two cents each, alongside the current issues of colored covers. And lay there for weeks and months at a time without a single copy sellng, while the colored covers were selling almost as fast as they came in.

But to come back to booklets. I was never much interested in them until about a year and a half ago, when a brother collector, a very good friend of mine, called to my attention the fact that there were literally hundreds of Indian stories published in the early booklet novels, that were not available in any other format. In other words, never reprinted elsewhere. This fact, caused me to start collecting them. But in the words of this same friend, "the collecting of booklets is a hobby for the rich man only" has proven only two true. The prohibitive price of booklets has been a serious handicap to me. However at the present writing I have between 40 and 50 booklets, mostly Indian stories. But I know of collections of booklets that run from 500 issues up. Literally a gold mine to their owners if they could sell at prevailing prices.

By saying that hundreds of Indian stories in booklet novels were never reprinted, I do not mean to give the impression that none were. Beadle

reprinted lots of his early booklets in the Half Dime and Pocket Librarys. The Ivers and Westbrook editions of Eades Frontier Series were almost wholly reprints of early booklets.

Still there were hundreds that never were reprinted especially those of Munro and DeWitt.

Aside from my liking for Indian stories in booklets I am not greatly interested in them. However I never turn down any that come my way. Such non-Indian stories as I get, I file away in hopes that eventually they will trade off for Indian stories, as they have already done in several cases.

Nickel Library did not mean much to me in those far away days, due to the fact that even in those days they were not very plentiful. At least not with me.

Now they are high favorites of mine due to the fact that I discovered that they contain more Indian stories than any other library or series published. A good 75 per cent of this little library are Indian tales.

There is one library that for reasons that I cannot understand was never in demand among novel collectors. This is the Deadwood Dick Library. A favorite of mine in boyhood. And my liking for them has grown down through the years.

As a boy and young man in trading around with other boys and young men, I annexed from time to time huge files of story papers such as Boys of New York, Young Men of America, Good News, Golden Days, Golden Argosy, Golden Hours, Saturday Night, and many other similar papers. I would read a few of the tales then swap them off, or give them away with the bulk of the tales still unread.

Alas those dear dead days are gone, as are the huge files of story papers, never to return again.

NOVELNUT NONSENSE

AS REGARDS our newly adopted uniform, the Gandhi breechclout, the sublime inspiration of our Dean, Brother Maroske, he wishes to thank Brother Blake for his idea of a flower design on the seat, namely a bunch of violets, as also Brother Couch for that of an air-conditioning gadget, but has ruled them out. Extra weight

is taboo. However, Brother Kohrt's patent pocket-string to replace the safety-pins has its arguments as a time-saver and is under consideration.

HOBBIES travel strange highways, as is evidenced in the sale to Brother Craufurd of Brother Barton's collection of caterpillars, spiders, crickets, water-bugs, snails, and cow-tics. We blame warshock for it.

PROSPERITY: On Sylvester Eve, Brother Bob Smeltzer threw a sauerkraut party. Bob says that work at the tannery is picking up.

HECTOR, Brother Bob Frye's Schnauzer dog, cunningly stuffed by our Taxidermist Brezinski, may now be seen in the parlor of Bob's fine manor-house seated on the family Album. Ever since Hector was a pup and dragged our unconscious Brother out of the burning hayloft and down the ladder, even death is powerless to separate them.

NATURE'S NOBEMAN CONFESSES: Still a trifle lame in his near hindfetlock, Brother Bill Burns, revealed, in his mellow, hauntingly beautiful contralto, chocking with emotion, the grief that gnaws at a manly, stricken heart, divulging to us a pitiful tale of persecution by cops, a tale peppered by countless foot-races, a tale which shows how a man can suffer long in silence. Bitter tears flowed from his tortured eyes like buttermilk, and a squirt of tobacco-juice hit the cat, following a fearful nasal-toot into his bandanna. Thus we left Bill, drowned in sorrow. He will cheerfully answer questions of all members wishing details. Enclose \$1.

JOIN UP: My RUSSKI CLUBOVITCHES. In every town. Write Bro. Fahrer. (Advt)

A FLYING LESSON:

THE HABIT of walking along talking to one's self and cussing fervently, usually spells excitement. We asked Brother Messier if he thought his profanity justified. Our members may judge for themselves: It appears that when bumped by an auto which sent him looping in a short parabola during which he had the uncanny experience of looking into his rear pants-pockets, he, with magnificent presence of mind started running while still in the air, thus taking him out of the reach of greater tribulations. Eli now stands when partaking of nutriment

which accounts for 90% of the cuss-words. Diagnosis made at ROUND-UP HOSPITAL: A "fundamental concussion".

HARBINGER OF SPRING: Brother Beck's old brown hen, Marthy, is ready to resume operations. George found an egg on the window-sill.

DAMAGES ASKED: Defendant is Brother Bragin's HOUSEHOLD REMEDY CO. A bill of complaint filed by Brother Claggett, rather profanely stresses that sad plaintiff swallowed one of Brother Bragin's cures, to wit; a gumboil poultice, and that "it played hell with my stummick ulcers". We hope that this unfortunate incident may be compromised.

FOR SALE: My scalp collection. Wrie XYZ, care ROUND-UP. (Advt) (Editor's note): Scalps, as centerpieces on tables, are on the way out. Item: Brother Moran, the Oakland Indian Hater, has discontinued the use of rusty nails, nuts and bolts, as ammunition for his scatter-gun, projectiles which make unnecessarily large holes in his clients' hides.

For the most thrilling and romantic stories of the West, read "Ranch Romances." On the newsstands everywhere twice a month.

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Medal Library #374. Also **New Medal** # 413, 443, 449, 452, 455, 458, 464, 467, 470, 473, 476, 479, 482, 485, 488, 494, 497, 500, 503, 506, 509, 512, 515, 518, 521, 524, 530, 533, 536, 542, 545, 548, 551, 554, 557, 560, 566, 569, 572, 575, 578, 581, 584, 587, 590, 593, 596, 599, 602, 605, 608, 611, 614, 620, 623, 629, 632, 635, 641, 644, 647, 650, 653, 656, 659, 662, 665, 668, 671, 674, 677, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 694, 698, 700, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792.

James E. Knott
Bristol, New Hampshire

WANTED

Pluck & Luck #89, 107, 163, 166, 181, 200, 265, also good copies to replace poor ones #3, 5, 6, 12, 14, 17, 22, 23, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36, 38, 40, 43, 45, 49, 50, 51, 53, 59, 63, 68, 73, 75, 84, 85, 86, 87, 92, 93, 94, 99, 100, 102, 103, 109, 111, 116, 119, 124, 125, 126, 127, 139, 161, 188, 197, 204.

Western Weekly #35.

New York Detective Library #301, 267, 508.

Old Cap Collier Library #13, 15, 16, 54, 56, 63, 104, 242, 269, 285, 296, 328, 429, 434, 549.

N. Y. 5c Library #144, 146.

Nugget Library #140, 149.

Happy Days #57;

Cricket Library #11.

Young Glory for replacements #7, 8, 10.

Wide Awake Weekly #46, 48, 50, 53.

Boys Home Weekly #4, 10, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, 31, 32.

Blue & Gray #20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, 31, 32.

Beadles Boys Library small #813.

Beadles Boys Library (M. J. Iver's & Co.) #2, 27, 32, 36, 50, 56.

Red Raven #24.

Diamond Dick Library #146.

Boys Star Library #99.

Boys of New York Pocket Library #192.

Tip Top #1 to 89, 702.

Young Klondike #19, 39.

Work & Win #20, 38,

Log Cabin Library #16, 79, 97.

Dick Dobbs #1, 3.

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George French

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A MEMORY
 by Eli A. Messier

I have often wondered what it is about some incident of our childhood that etches that incident on our memory so that in manhood the occurrence seems as clear as though it happened but yesterday.

Such an incident happened years ago when I was a boy about 8 or 9 years old. I lived then in Central Falls, R. I. A rummage sale was being held and three or four churches had joined together to make it a big affair and had hired a vacant store and had filled the store and the window with all sorts of things. I was too young to know what it was all about but not too young to want to go to the store and gaze in the window and to see all the excitement going on.

So with two of my chums we went down to the store. My chums had lots more nerve than I had but at last I gathered up enough courage to the point where I would go in the store with them. There were three of us and about 25c among the three.

Inside, the first fine thing we saw that attracted us was a pile of stove pipe hats, or silk hats. They certainly were old, must have been worn about Lincoln's time as from pictures I have seen of him he was wearing one of them. Just to have fun we each bought one of them at 5c each, and did we have a great time with those hats.

We wandered around inside the store and came to a counter on which were great piles of books and magazines. Among them we saw a few stacks of Tip Top, Do and Dare, Comrades etc. We were interested to a certain degree as my big brother read novels so I knew what they were. Each stack was about the same size and contained about 40 issues and were priced at 10c a stack. We decided to buy some. I decided to buy Tip Tops but I only had 5c left but the lady in charge let me have the pile for my 5c. One of my chums bought the pile of Comrades because he liked the pictures on the cover. I remember one of the Tip Tops I got very well, it was #118 Frank Merriwell, Engine-wiper; or, At the Foot of the Ladder.

What a bargain we got although we did not know it at the time. My big brother did though, and next day armed with some money from him we went back to buy some more novels. But, alas, we found the store closed, the sale had been only for one day.

A day I would like to live over.

THE END

A. J. Souweine, 20 Cabrini Blvd., New York City, N. Y. Want Chess Literature. Send me a List of what you have.

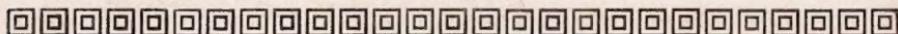
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87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 98 99 100 101 102 104 105 107 108 111 113 116 124
125 126 128 130 132 133 134 137 141 144 148 149 150 151 154 156 158 159 161 162
163 164 165 167 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 178 181 182 183 184 185 186 187
191 209 210 211 212 215 216 219 221 222 223 224 227 232 235 238 239 240 242 243
246 247 248 252 253 255 258 268 269 270 272 273 275 276 277 278 279 280 283 287
289 290 291 301 302 305 307 310 311 312 322 323 326 327 328 329 330 331 333 336
347 348 350 547 597 633 735 737 744 745 774 778 799 807.

Replacing poor copies: #299 353 457 460 491 500 513 522 642 644 697 814
817 819.

Nick Carter Stories, nos. 23 25 32 40 42 45 46 47 51 76 82 89 132.

Replacing poor copies, #88.

Duplicates to trade

New Nick Carter Weekly, nos. 371 456 467 475 482 492* 493 494* 495 518
519* 520 524* 525* 526* 527 528 599 600 601 621 624 625 627 635 636 638 641 642
644 645 646 647 648 653 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 667 668 670-676 677 678 681
692 706 707 708 710 712 713 715 717 720 726 727 731 741 743 748 753 754 755 757
759 762 768 769 770 771 775 782 787 796 797 801 802 803 805 806 809 810.

*—no cover.

Nick Carter Stories, nos. 22 31 52 63 64 100 112 115 119 120 128 149 150 151
155.

